

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09886 131620Z
ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4174

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9886

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG UN
SUBJ: SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (SGOC) STUDY OF INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: A. GENEVA A-301, DATED DEC 15, 1976, B.STATE 284208

FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL (B) FOR UNITED POSTAL
UNION (UPU): THE UPU IS AN UNUSUAL CASE--PROBABLY UNIQUE AMONG
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THE U.S. POSTAL ADMINISTRATION--NOW THE U.
S. POSTAL SERVICES (USPS)--HAS REPRESENTED THE U.S. IN THE
ORGANIZATION SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1874. ALL DOCUMENTATION GOES
ONLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION, AND AN OFFICIAL MUST BE A MEMBER OF
A POSTAL ADMINISTRATION IN ORDER TO ATTEND UPU MEETINGS (OTHER THAN
THE CONGRESSES HELD AT FIVE-YEAR INTERVALS). SINCE 1972 THE
CURRENT DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POSTAL AFFAIRS OF THE USPS HAS
REFUSED TO REQUEST THE UPU TO SEND DOCUMENTS TO THE DEPT OF
STATE OR TO THE MISSION IN GENEVA AND THE UPU, WHICH GENERALLY
TAKES A FORMALISTIC VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES, HAS
REFUSED TO PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTATION WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. THE RESULT IS THAT THE DEPT OF
STATE (AND THE MISSION) OBTAIN ONLY SUCH UPU DOCUMENTATION AS
THE USPS IS WILLING TO GIVE IT. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS NOT ENOUGH,
AND THE DEPT WILL HAVE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH USPS IN
ORDER TO IMPROVE THIS SITUATION. ONE ITEM OF INFORMATION THE
SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN PROVIDING TO THE MISSION HAS BEEN THE ANNUAL
REQUEST FROM IO/EX FOR INFORMATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
ON APPROPRIATIONS. HOWEVER, AS PLEASANT AND FRIENDLY AS THE UPU
OFFICIALS ARE IN PERSON AND OVER THE PHONE, THEY CONTINUE TO
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REFUSE TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION EXCEPT UPON WRITTEN REQUEST

FROM THE USPS, WHICH THE LATTER, IN TURN, REFUSES TO SUBMIT.
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